

# Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey

**Nature Center Staff:**

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

*Red-headed Woodpecker*

**February Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST**

**Tuesdays-Sunday, Closed Mondays**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

## **Saturday January 31**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with juncos, chickadees and more! BB

**2pm Winter Dune Tops.** Take all to the top of Mt. Tom this morning. We'll take the Nature Center and take a moderate hike to the highest point in the park. Bundle up and join u



## **Sunday February 1**

**10am A Super Bowl Hike.** Bring your favorite team's colors and join the Naturalist for a refreshing morning jaunt into the super interdunal "bowls" of the high dunes. We'll visit great views from Mt. Tom along the way. Put on that jersey (and a good coat!) and join us outside the Nature Center. BB

**2pm A Groundhog's Way.** Join the Naturalist in the Nature Center for a fun look at the groundhogs of Indiana Dunes, and how our groundhogs predict the spring. Test your groundhog knowledge for prizes! Great family fun! BB

## **Wednesday February 4**

**6:30pm Friend's Annual Dinner.** On this night, the Friends of Indiana Dunes hosts their quarterly board meeting and annual dinner. The pizza party is open to the public and Friend members at Gelsosomo's Pizza in Chesterton. Come on by for a free night of food!

## **Saturday February 7**

**10am Winter Beaver Stroll.** Bundle up and join the Naturalist for a winter stroll into the duneland woods. We'll explore what the resident beavers are up to this fine late winter morning. Meet at the Nature Center for this one hour walk. DG

**2pm Scavenger Hunt!** Join a naturalist and his GPS unit to discover nature and some hidden treasures in this high tech scavenger hunt. Meet at the Nature Center. We'll be for 30-45 minutes. DG

## **Sunday February 8**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with juncos, chickadees and more! DG

**2pm Composting in the Winter.** As winter has set in, take some time to find out how you can add some "green" to your life by composting. Also, learn about worms and vermicomposting in the Nature Center Auditorium this afternoon. DG

## **Saturday February 14**

### **Happy Valentine's Day!**

**2pm Sex in the Forest.** Spring is around the corner, and the plants and animals of the forest will be awakening for spring's arrival soon. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for a 45-minute stroll looking at reproduction techniques of plants, trees, and even some of the animals around us. G-rated for the kids! DG

**5pm Owls in Love!** Explore the life of owls this evening with the Naturalist! Meet in the Nature Center auditorium for a brief look at the owls of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards, we'll step outside to try to "hoot up" our resident Screech Owls. Bundle up and join us! DG

## **Sunday February 15**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with juncos, chickadees and more! BB

**2pm March of the Penguins.** Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this amazing 90 minute documentary that won the academy award for best documentary. Walk with the penguins! Seating first come, first serve.

## **Saturday February 21**

**10am To the Blowout and Back.** Bundle up and join the Naturalist for a winter stroll into the Duneland woods. We'll be heading to Beach House Blowout for some spectacular views of Lake Michigan, and perhaps some shelf ice. BB

**2pm Leave No Trace Mini-Workshop.** Join Bill Houk, Master Educator for Leave No Trace, for a look at what the Leave No Trace Organization does and ways you can minimize your effects on the natural world around us. Special program lasts one hour in the Nature Center auditorium. Join us!

## **Sunday February 22**

**9:30am Breakfast with the Birds.** Meet the naturalists and other bird enthusiasts at the Nature Center bird room for some free donuts, coffee, and cocoa (donations accepted)! We'll discuss some of the special winter birds and offer an optional short walk for those interested. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

**2pm Spring Skunk Search!** No, not real skunks, but the first wildflower of the year.... skunk cabbage! We'll meet at the Nature Center and stroll into the dune wetlands for a peak at this stinky flower. Bring your olfactory senses and join us! BB

## **Tuesday February 24**

**7pm Image Makers Nature Photo Club.** The Image Makers Nature Photography Club meets every month. After a special program, the group shares nature photos from the Duneland area. If you enjoy photography, this group is a great informal way to find others that share your interest. Program meets at the Nature Center Auditorium. Grab your camera and join us!

## **Saturday February 28**

**10am Return of the Redwings!** Usually this weekend we see the first Red-winged Blackbirds of the year. Join the Naturalist for a search of the true sign of spring. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours and meet at the Nature Center for this 45-minute stroll. DG

**2pm Reptiles!** With spring around the corner, join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at some of the Indiana Dunes' reptiles that will be awakening soon. Close up views for the kids! Slither on over! DG

## **Sunday March 1**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with juncos, chickadees and more! DG

**2pm In Like a Lion or Lamb Walk.** Will March come in like a lion or lamb? Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center to find out. We'll take off on an easy, hour stroll in search of all things spring! DG

## **Aldo Leopold Bench Workshop!**

***March 21 at 1pm***

Join other nature enthusiasts on March 21 at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center for a special look at our Father of Modern Ecology, Aldo Leopold. While most famous for his great book, "Sand County Almanac," Leopold's vision of the land ethic guides us in conservation today. Leopold also left us one legacy... the Leopold bench.

After a short program, participants will have a chance to build their own Leopold bench for their own special piece of land. Participation fee required, and space is limited. To sign up or for more information call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

